Crime Probe Eyed by City

S-1 6-19-69

By EDWARD J. LEPOMA

The City Council decided today to meet as soon as possible with the superintendent of police to determine whether recent charges of organized crime in New Orleans merit a full-scale council investigation.

Council President John J. Petre spoke in behalf of the council and disclosed the decision arrived at after councilmen huddled privately almost one hour.

"We are prepared to have a full public hearing," Petre said.

The council called on Ivor Trapolin, chairman of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Crime and Delinquency, and on the police department to furnish all pertinent evidence, including names and full details.

PETRE SAID Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso is out of town but the council would ask to meet with him as soon as he returns.

Trapolin issued a report this month on organized crime and later drew fire from Chief Administrative Officer Bernard B. Levy.

Levy challenged Trapolin to "name names and be specific in his charges that organized crime has infiltrated the tourist trade, the port and other parts of the city.

COUNCILMAN - AT-LARGE Moon Landrieu, who is serving as mayor while Victor H. Schiro is in Europe read two letters from Tarpolin.

In one letter, Trapolin pointed out the June report was his personal statement and not a statement by his committee. In the other letter Trapolin offered to meet with Giarrusso and provide any information he might have.

"Broad statesments of this nature do a great deal to undermine confidence in government," Landrieu said, referring to Trapolin's allegations.

THE MATTER of an investigation was brought up as new business on the suggestion of Councilman James A. Moreau.

"For the past several months and the past few days we have been hearing quite a bit about organized crime and many allegations have been made," said Moreau.

"This council wants to remove this cloud for once and for all. We want to make a full investigation, if it is merited."

In other action today the City Council approved the transfer of $3,000 for maintenance and service of equipment at the New Orleans East incinerator.

ALSO APPROVED was a transfer of $500 to allow the health department to buy additional rat poison.

Earlier today the council approved one zoning change on the Chef Menteur hwy. and

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denied another on St. Thomas street.

John Mascaro, owner of the property on the Chef highway, had received Planning Commission approval to change the area from B-Two Family District to F-Heavy Commercial District. Mascaro said he planned to build garden-type apartments on property bounded by Chef Menteur Highway, Plum Orchard Avenue, Warfield Street, and Chantilly Avenue.

MASCARO SAID the present zoning made the property "impossible to develop."

Joseph P. Kennon, 7024 Warfield Dr., spoke against the zoning change. He said residents wanted the area to remain residential and feared any commercial use would devalue their property.

Councilman Philip C. Ciaccio, who represents the Third District where the property is located, was successful in amending the change to make the property D-Multiple Family.

COUNCILMAN EDDIE L. Sapir recommended that the council uphold a decision by the Planning Commission denying another zoning change request.

Mrs. Lillian S. Reisgen sought to change from the D-Multiple Family Districts to J-Light Industrial District, property bounded by Philip, Rousseau, Soraparu and St. Thomas Streets.

The Planning Commission recommended denial because it said adequate commercial property was available.

No one appeared to speak in favor of the change.